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MAY 11/30/04

Application No. 09/917,897  
Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1.-2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a protease in a biological sample, said method comprising:
  - (1) contacting one of two or more substantially continuous slices of a biological sample with a dried thin membrane which comprises a protease substrate together with a cross-linking agent formed on a surface of a support, wherein said cross-linking agent is a vinylsulfonic acid-type cross-linking agent;
  - (2) contacting the remaining slices with a dried thin membrane which comprises a protease substrate, a cross-linking agent, and a protease inhibitor formed on a surface of a support, wherein said cross-linking agent is a vinylsulfonic acid-type cross-linking agent;
  - (3) detecting traces of digestion formed on the dried thin membranes by the action of protease; and
  - (4) comparing the trace of digestion on the dried thin membrane used in step (1) with the trace of digestion on the dried thin membrane used in step (2).
4. (Canceled).